

Worship Brainstorming
February 2019 – Season of Epiphany
Monday, January 21, 2019

The worship brainstorming will be held at David and Karen Booth's house. We will have a potluck at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share that goes with sub sandwiches. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 pm. We'll gather in the basement to take advantage of the big screen. Bring a sweater or sweatshirt as it is a bit cool.

RSVP to Karen Booth at 231-798-8431, 231-557-1069, kwbooth@comcast.net or sign up at church.

Please try to read the message summary, scripture, and related articles for each week and preview the video trailers if at all possible.

Directions to the Booth's from church:

Take HENRY St south to MOUNTGARFIELD (1.2 mi)

Turn right (west) onto MOUNT GARFIELD (0.7 mi).

MOUNT GARFIELD dead-ends at Lake Harbor.

Turn right (north) on LAKE HARBOR (0.1 mi).

Turn left (west) on WESTWOOD DRIVE (0.2 mi).

The Booth's have a 1½ story tan brick house on the left side of the street. Note: The street numbers will change from the 1500's to the 5700's as the road curves.

Series: "Faith in Films"

2019 theme: Love God and love your neighbor

Though our faith in Jesus Christ is grounded in Scripture, the arts, including literature and films, profoundly influence how we think about and understand God. When characters long for something or yearn for something, when they celebrate, all of these moments can be viewed through a lens of prayer even though the character may not address God directly. (Larsen) Stories connect to the human experience and help us to grow in our faith. We'll look at four films in this season of Epiphany when we celebrate God coming in Jesus to bring salvation for all of the world. **Each of them includes music as a theme and/or message.** Where do we see themes of salvation, redemption, and hope in recent films? And how do those themes challenge us to pay closer attention to our overall theme of "loving God and neighbor?"

Ideas for the series:

Send out a survey to our congregation via E-mail and Facebook with the question:

What film has changed your perspective on how you treat others?

What film gives you hope?

What music has touched you deeply?

What's your favorite song to sing in church?

Resources:

- Movies Are Prayer: How Films Voice Our Deepest Longings by Josh Larsen. "Movies are our way of telling God what we think about this world and our place in it. . . . Movies can be many things: escapist experiences, historical artifacts, business ventures, and artistic expressions, to name a few. I'd like to suggest that they can also be prayers."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78Vq6aZeWrM> (Might make a good series intro)
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32284329-movies-are-prayers> (This review breaks the prayers into 10 categories and gives movie titles and scripture passages to go with each.)
- God in the Movies: A Guide for Exploring Four Decades of Film and Finding God in the Movies by Catherine M Barsotti & Robert K. Johnston.

Visuals: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/LHUMC/Faith%20in%20Films%20Jan%202017>

- Movie reels (Mary Scott), Oscar, Posters
- Director's clapboard and chair
- Popcorn (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/208150814003539818/>) and popcorn maker (Mary Scott, Myke's church, Jack Heethouse). Boxes of candy.
- Tickets
- Marquee (chalkboard with string of 25 globe lights)
- Big display: "Now Showing" and "Coming Attractions"
- Video previews
- Movie countdowns
- Specific items for each movie - costumes, props, etc.

Publicity: "See You on Sunday!" and February Harbor Light

February 10, 2019: "Mary Poppins Returns" (Dec. 2018)

Now an adult with three children, bank teller Michael Banks learns that his house will be repossessed in five days unless he can pay back a loan. His only hope is to find a missing certificate that shows proof of valuable shares that his father left him years earlier. Just as all seems lost, Michael and his sister receive the surprise of a lifetime when Mary Poppins – the beloved nanny from their childhood -- arrives to save the day and take the Banks family on a magical, fun-filled adventure.

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Scripture reference: John 8: 12

¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Synopsis: "Looking for Light" - Grief and loss can overwhelm us and drive us to feel hopeless, but God's love and care don't leave when we struggle. Journeying through grief can bring us to places of deeper understanding of God's care now, hope for the promise of eternal life, and the grace we receive from others.

Felt need: To trust in the power of resurrection and new life in death – and to see the signs of resurrection right now.

Visuals: Kites, balloons. Umbrella, pea coat, hat, carpet bag.

Media: Film trailer Length: 2:26. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3jsfXDZLIY>

Related info: <https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2017/10/mary-poppins-is-a-retelling-of-the-bible.html>

Background information: *Mary Poppins* tells about a father who has a "resurrection," or fresh start. When he loses his bank job because his children Jane and Michael accidentally start a run on the bank during a visit, he repents and plans to pay more attention to his family.

Activity/hands-on item: Give everyone a candle/light or balloon

Music: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (UMC 206); This Little Light of Mine (UMC 585); God Light Your World; Hymn of Promise (UMC 707)

February 17, 2019: "Green Book" (Nov. 2018)

Dr. Don Shirley is a world-class African-American pianist, who is about to embark on a concert tour in the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony Lip, a tough-talking bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx. Despite their differences, the two men soon develop an unexpected bond while confronting racism and danger in an era of segregation.

Scripture: I John 4: 7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Scripture: Acts 4: 36-37

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Scripture: Acts 9: 26-31

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Synopsis: *“Be an Encourager”* - Friendships develop - sometimes by proximity and sometimes because of adversity or unexpected circumstances. One goal of friendship is to find acceptance for who we are and to share life together, including difficult experiences. We’re called to see one another as beloved by God and to encourage one another to be ourselves.

Felt need: To recognize the power of acceptance and friendship in our lives

Visuals: Map of the south, KFC chicken bucket, car/door/bench/steering wheel, piano, green book (1960 publication of safe places for blacks to stay in the south)

Media: film trailer. Length: 2:30.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=QkZxoko_HCO

Related info: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/02/movies/don-shirley-green-book.html>

Activities: write a note of encouragement to a friend

Music: Help Us Accept Each Other (UMH 560); God of Grace and God of Glory (UMH 577); The Servant Song (FWS 2222)

February 24, 2019: “The Greatest Showman” (2017) - Jeff Verry preaching

Inspired by the imagination of P. T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

Scripture:

Synopsis: “” -

Felt need: To find courage to be who we are and live authentically even when others' expectations are different

Visuals: Top hat, cane, trapeze, ringmaster related stuff

Media: Film trailer. Length: 2:30.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=jr9QtXwC9vc

Related info:

- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8676/movies-culture-and-faith>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/greatest-showman-captured-american-imagination/>
- <https://jasminpatterson.com/2-powerful-faith-lessons-from-the-greatest-showman/>
(cites numerous passages of related scripture)

Activities:

Music:

Insights:

March 3, 2019: "I Can Only Imagine" (2018)

Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspires him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" as singer of the Christian band MercyMe. The song brings ultimate hope to so many and is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.

Scripture: II Corinthians 5: 11-21

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Scripture: Acts 9: 1-31 (Saul's conversion) - may be just as a reference

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Synopsis: *“Hoping for Hope”* - God is in the business of reconciliation - bringing people together and leading us back to the truth of God’s love for us. We bank on hope - that God can and will work through the toughest situations we face and even provide us glimpses of God’s Grace in our struggles.

Felt need: To believe that God can work through our pain to bring us hope

Visuals: Guitar, record, map of Texas, song sheets

Media: Film trailer. Length: 2:14. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsMyv9Q4_OU

Related info:

- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/music/2018/03/13/how-did-can-only-imagine-become-best-selling-christian-song-all-time/418024002/>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2909/why-do-we-worship>

Activities: Holy Communion, Transfiguration Sunday

Music: Amazing Grace (UMH 378); O Lord, You’re Beautiful (FWS 2064); To God Be the Glory (UMH 98); And Can It Be that I Should Gain (UMH 363)
